

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /093 W

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R 311800Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3773

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR OIL CONFERENCE

REF: PARIS 25419

1. FRENCH PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED, BASED ON OFFICIAL SOURCES, THAT GOF PLANS TO SEND ENVOYS TO OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND U.S. AS FOLLOWUP TO GISCARDS'S CALL FOR OIL PRICE CONFERENCE. EX-MINISTERS JEAN DE LIPKOWSKI AND ANDRE BETTENCOURT ARE TO GO IN NEAR
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FUTURE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN RESPECTIVELY; A SPECIAL

ENVOY WILL ALSO BE SELECTED FOR VISIT TO CARACAS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR PONIATOWSKI IS LIKEWISE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS QUESTION DURING HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO ALGIERS IN LATE NOVEMBER. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ECONOMIC DIRECTOR BRUNET HAS BEEN NAMED TO GO TO WASHINGTON.

2. COMMENT: BRUNET CONFIRMED TO ECON/COM MIN THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON "AT THE REQUEST OF GISCARD", IN RESPONSE TO INDICATIONS GISCARD'S INITIATIVE HAD IRRITATED THE U.S. HE SAID HIS MISSION WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE TO U.S. AUTHORITIES THE ADVANTAGES FOR THE U.S. AND FOR CONSUMERS GENERALLY OF GISCARD'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. BRUNET SAID HE WOULD ARGUE THAT THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD THAT OIL PRICES COULD BE FORCED DOWN BY A COMBINATION OF CONSUMER UNITY AND DEMAND RESTRAINT AND THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WAS THROUGH A FRANK DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS IN WHICH THE CONSUMERS COULD DEMONSTRATE WITH FACTS AND FIGURES THE DISASTROUS EFFECT ON THE WORLD ECONOMY THE MAINTENANCE OF PRESENT PRICE LEVELS COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO GO TO WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY. (BRUNET'S OFFICE CALLED SUBSEQUENTLY TO SAY HE WOULD BE GOING TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS AT THE DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PRICES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS25787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740312-0630
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974103/aaaaabva.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 25419
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR OIL CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005